

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

Whenever an aisleway
begins to be continually cluttered and blocked
with carts and flats Goodstone Aircraft Company will
quickly hang a huge
sign there emphatically prohibiting the leaving
of carts and flats in the aisle,
just as Goodstone
immediately leaves DO NOT CROSS HIGHWAY, USE THE TUNNEL
signs on the corners of intersections
where droves of employees are starting to regularly cross,
just as Goodstone puts up
YOU WOULDN'T THROW TRASH AROUND IN YOUR OWN LIVING ROOM
SO WHY DO IT HERE?
signs
in areas of the shop where the floor is beginning
to be chronically covered with things like plastic cups
and wadded-up potato-chip bags,
just as Goodstone puts up those big
FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS, OR GET THE DIRECTIONS CHANGED
posters
in those areas of the shop
where it's getting to seem like no one does
what the paperwork tells them to do.

Don't blame it on Goodstone.

AS I AM BURIED DOING THE WORK OF 2 MACHINISTS

Tim
the layout man wanders over to my machine
and motions with his head
toward the new machine next to me
that has sat useless and unhooked-up for a month,
saying, "Yeah you know Goodstone's got to go through
ALL that red TAPE before they can hook that machine up,
they got to go an'get CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL before
they can even begin to THINK about hooking it up,
everyone's got to have a piece of paper sitting on the
right desk in the right building
first"
and I nod frowning
and Tim grins at me happy like a cat
torturing a grasshopper,
knowing
the red tape won't REALLY begin
until after they hook the new machine up
and have to go through all of the proper channels
to okay
someone running it.